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Selectmen Minutes 08-27-2001

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 27, 2001

7:15 p.m.

Present: Mr. Lyons - Chair, Mrs. Mahon - Vice Chairman, Mr. Greeley, Mrs. Dias, Mr. Hurd
Also Present: Mr. Farrington, Mr. Maher, Ms. Cove

FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of Meeting: July 30, 2001
Mrs. Mahon moved approval. SO VOTED

APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Appointment Board of Selectmen Designee
To study by-law governing Newsracks
(from 7/30 agenda)
Mr. Hurd moved to appoint the Town Manager. SO VOTED

Zoning Board of Appeals: Reappointment
Joe Tulimieri
(term to expire 8/04)
Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED

For Discussion: Undoing Racism
Request of Chairman
The Chairman requested that this appear on the next agenda.

Common Victualler/Wine & Malt Beverages Only - Change of Hours
LaBuona Vita Inc., Rosalbo Baio, Pres., 450 Mass. Ave.
Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED

Drain Layer License
Joseph P. Pandolfo d/b/a Pandolfo Company Inc., 3 Meadowcroft Rd., Burlington
Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED

Change in Status of Food Vendor License/Sole Ownership to Partnership
From Victor Karamousayan to Victor and Maral Karamousayan d/b/a Yervan Middle East Grocery, 892 Mass. Ave.
Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED

Fortune Teller License
Tiffany Costello, 1173 Mass. Ave.

Mr. Hurd moved approval. Mrs. Dias abstained. (4-0-1) SO VOTED
 Request from Arlington Lodge of Elks to Hang Banner Across Pleasant St.
 William Copithorne, Co-Chair Charity Softball Committee, 9/22/01
 Mrs. Dias moved approval. SO VOTED

Request to Close Franklin Ave. to Host Tufts 10K 25 year Celebration Party
 Lisa & Terry Austin d/b/a Wild Women Outfitters, 397 Mass. Ave., 10/6/01,
 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED

Request for permission for "March for Democracy" from Lexington to Boston
 David Donnelly, Director, Mass Voters for Clean Elections
 Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED

Request for No Trucks Sign/Alpine St.
 Dominic Bonanno
 Mrs. Mahon moved to refer the matter to the police department. SO VOTED

Request for signage/traffic flow Hardy School Area
 Gerald V. Carmody, Principal
 Mr. Hurd moved approval of the following:
 - Posting of signs to restrict parking between 7:45-8:45 a.m. and between 1:45-2:45 p.m. on the east side of Chandler Street.
 - Designation of the west side of Chandler Street as a drop-off/pick-up zone during the same hours
 SO VOTED

Correspondence Received

Freeland Abbott Light pollution Be Recd
 Chair, Zoning
 Bylaw Review
 Committee

Alan Jones Request for "Dead End" sign entrance Lehigh St.
 1 Lehigh St.
 The Board requested that this matter be referred to the Director of Public Works and the Director of Police Services.

Cathy Lewis TIP Amendment/Non-Artery Highway Program
 Boston Metro.
 Planning Org.

William Groves Melrose Street concern
 51 Melrose St

George Ginivisian Storm drain on Summit St.
 42 Summit St.

Raymond Lintz Power failure victims
 87 Harlow St.

Paul McGuire Capping Senior Taxes
 55 Tomahawk Rd.

William Miranda Marin, Esq. Support Bill HR 2550
 Mayor, Puerto Rico

Luisa Paiewonsky, Exec. Secy. Draft FY 2002 Unified Planning Work Program
 Boston Metropolitan Planning Draft FY 2002-2007 Transp. Improvement Program
 Organization and Air Quality Conformity Determination

William T. Friel Letter of Support-Request for Determination/
 Executive Secretary Investigation of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000
 Town of Canton
 The Chairman recommended that the Board support this action.

Mr. Hurd moved to receive correspondence. SO VOTED

Raymond Lintz of Harlow Street was present with several of his neighbors to request assistance with a chronic power failure problem on the street. Mr. Lintz explained that as many of the homes on his street have been converted to condominiums, the demand for power has increased.

Mr. Hurd moved to support Mr. Lintz's request to have Nstar to review suggestions made by Mr. Lintz to better meet the electrical power needs of the residents of Harlow Street. SO VOTED

Mrs. Dias suggested that the Town should start with a specific request for Harlow street but then consider joining forces with Cambridge and Belmont to address the problem.

The Chairman indicated that he had spoken to Attorney General Thomas Riley earlier that day about the matter. He also spoke with Commissioner James Connolly of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE); he read a letter that the DTE had written to the utility companies requesting those companies to submit to DTE by October 28, 2001 information regarding the many service interruptions experienced during the past summer months.. The Chairman indicated that it is the intention of the Chairman of DTE to hold regional hearings on the recent power outages in November and December. Mr. Hurd moved to send a letter to Mr. Connolly indicating that the Town of Arlington would like to host one of those hearings. SO VOTED

The Chairman asked that the Town Counsel investigate the Town's flexibility under state law to form a publicly owned electric distribution company. He had spoken the past week to the Town Manager John Carroll of Norwood regarding that community's success running a power distribution company. He also indicated that it is very important for the Town to push the Department of Telecommunications and Energy to do their job and properly regulate the NStar including but not limiting fining said company as allowed by law for poor quality of service. Mr. Lyons also indicated he had contacted a consultant capable of giving the Town an independent assessment of the capability of the existing electrical distribution system to meet resident needs and urges the Town Manager to hire a consultant to review this issue and report his/her findings to the Town and to DTE.

Mrs. Mahon indicated that she felt strongly that N-Star should be held accountable for the outages. Mrs. Mahon moved that the Board invite the President of N-Star and the President of the Electrical Union to appear at the next meeting. SO VOTED

Mrs. Mahon also asked questions about how to best report an outage. She also requested that a letter be sent to our legislative delegation asking for their assistance on this matter. She also stated that she would like N-Star to set up a claim center in Arlington.

Representative Anne Paulsen was present and indicated that N-Star should be pressed to make short term

improvements.

Mrs. Mahon expressed her concern that that there is no record of the outages. The Town Manager encouraged people to contact N-Star during a power failure.

Mr. Hurd moved to endorse the Chairman's suggestion that the Town Manager explore the possibility of the Town to hire an independent consultant to review the electrical distribution system. SO VOTED

WARRANT ARTICLE HEARINGS

Article 2 Land Acquisition/Symmes Hospital

Charlie Foscett, Chair of the Symmes Advisory Committee was present and gave an extensive presentation to the Board on the committees activities and progress. Town Counsel recommended that the Board report at Town Meeting on the matter.

Mr. Greeley moved that the Board will report on Article 2 at Town Meeting. SO VOTED

Mr. Greeley moved to receive the report of the Symmes Advisory Committee. SO VOTED

Article 3 Acceptance of Legislation/Community Preservation Act

Mr. Greeley moved to table the matter to September 10th. SO VOTED

Article 4 Arlington Housing Authority/Low Income Housing Projects

Patricia Worden, Chair of the Arlington Housing authority was present with Frank Hurd, Executive Director of the Arlington Housing Authority to give an extensive presentation to the Board on the matter. After much discussion, the Chairman requested a letter from Counsel for the Housing Authority clarifying what the language in the article provides for.

Mr. Hurd moved to table the matter to September 10th. SO VOTED

Mrs. Dias requested that Town Counsel report on changes to MGL Chapter 40B and its possible impact on the Town.

LICENSES & PERMITS

RCN Cable License

Report of the Cable Advisory Committee

Phil McCarthy, Chair of the Cable Advisory Committee was present and gave the Board and overview of the proposed agreement.

Louise Fischer Strayhorn was also present and offered her comments and encouraged the Board to read the agreement closely, particularly with regard to the PEG access issue.

The Board expressed its strong desire to tour the cable facility in Newton that is run by an independent access corporation.

Mr. Greeley moved approval of the draft license for final execution by the Board at their next meeting. SO VOTED

Glen Koenig of the Arlington Access Corporation was present to speak in favor of an independent access corporation running a cable studio in town.

Mr. Hurd thanked the Cable Advisory Committee for their hard work. Mr. Hurd moved to empower the Cable Advisory Committee to develop policy suggestion for an Access Corporation as well as make recommendation about the allocation of funds from RCN. SO VOTED

Report of Farmers Market/Request for Permit for September & October

Oakes Plimpton and Pat Jones, Co-Managers

Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED

Mr. Plimpton was requested to put signs up in the area of the market that vehicles should be out of the lot by 2:00 p.m.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

Report of the Municipal Parking Subcommittee

Report by Alan McClennen, Jr., Director of Planning and Community Development

Mr. McClennen submitted a report to the Board outlining several recommendations to help ease parking problems in Arlington Center.

Mr. Hurd moved to approve the recommendation to use the Spy Pond Lot (located on Pond Lane) as an additional area for permitted parking stickers. SO VOTED

The lot would be utilized from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for permit parking. It was strongly recommended that all vehicles be removed from the lot by 8:00 a.m. in order to make the daytime utilization of the lot successful.

Mr. Hurd moved to direct the Director of Police Services to conduct a study to examine the advisability of instituting a long-term employee sticker-parking program along Pleasant Street.

SO VOTED

Mr. Hurd moved to expand the number of all day permit parking spaces at the Russell Common Lot by removing the 2 hour parking space portion of three rows in the lot for an approximate gain of 30 permit spaces. SO VOTED

Mr. Hurd moved to direct the Planning Department to move forward with engaging a boring contractor to test the subsurface conditions at Russell Common. SO VOTED

This test will be able to determine very quickly whether or not it is possible to add additional parking at Russell Common by excavating and constructing a deck.

Report of Transportation Advisory Committee

Edward Starr, Chairman

Mr. Starr updated the Board on the activities of the Committee. The Board thanked Mr. Starr and his fellow committee members for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Hurd moved to receive the report. SO VOTED

New Business

Mr. Farrington informed that Board that the funding for Summer Street in the Metropolitan Planning Organizations Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) had been moved out to 2004 from 2003. Mrs. Dias moved to direct the Manager to ensure that the Summer Street project stays on schedule. SO VOTED

Mrs. Mahon requested that we communicate that the Town is ready to proceed in January 2002 and that we are ready if another project should drop from the TIP.

Mr. Hurd announced that the site of the former Belmont Rink would be used as practice field by the Belmont Hill School from 3 to 5:00 p.m. The school will be maintaining the field. He also commented about the beeping horns on Route 2 due to overnight construction.

Mrs. Dias reported on a meeting with friends of Spy Pond Park, and requested that the Manager take a walk down to the pond himself.

Mr. Greeley complimented the chairman on his efficient handling of a long agenda.

Mrs. Mahon reported on a meeting regarding CSOs and matters related to that. The Town has not received any answers to its questions posed in response to the project notices from Somerville and Cambridge and she expressed her desire that these things be put in writing.

The Chairman requested that a report from the Mugar Advisory Committee appear on the next agenda. He informed the Board that the Chair of the Belmont Board of Selectmen and the Mayor of the City of Cambridge invited him to a meeting to discuss a large development in the Cambridge on the Board of the three communities. He asked for encouragement from his colleagues to attend the next Belmont Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Greeley moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 p.m.

A true record.

Attest:

Caryn E. Cove
Board Administrator